

BILL BRADBURY
SECRETARY OF STATE



ELECTIONS DIVISION
JOHN LINDBACK
DIRECTOR
141 STATE CAPITOL
SALEM, OREGON 97310-0722
ELECTIONS—(503) 986-1518

BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF STATE
OF THE
STATE OF OREGON

In the matter of a Late Contribution and Expenditure Report) Final Order by Default
by Close Friends, Betsy L. Close, Candidate,)
Christopher Close, Treasurer, for the Second Pre-Election for) Case No. L7716
the May 18, 2004, Primary Election)

August 4, 2004

Close Friends (002725)
Betsy L. Close, Candidate / Christopher Close, Treasurer
5220 NW Winn Dr
Albany, OR 97321

Dear Representative Close:

This is a Final Order by Default issued by the Secretary of State (secretary) for your failure to file a timely second pre-election contribution and expenditure report for the May 18, 2004, Primary Election.

On June 10, 2004, the secretary notified Close Friends (committee), pursuant to ORS 260.232(2), that it had failed to file the report and that the secretary may impose a civil penalty. An opportunity for a hearing was provided in that notice; however, no request for a hearing was received by the secretary within the time permitted in the notice. Accordingly, after consideration of the records and files of the secretary regarding this matter, the secretary is entering the following Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The committee's Statement of Organization (SEL 220), applicable during the reporting period, was filed with the secretary on March 15, 2004. The statement reported Christopher Close as the treasurer and 5220 NW Winn Dr, Albany, OR 97321 as the mailing address for both candidate and committee correspondence.
2. The committee was required to file a second pre-election report with the secretary on May 6, 2004. This report was required to be filed electronically. A paper copy of the report was provided to the secretary on May 6, 2004.
3. The secretary sent the committee a notice that it had failed to file a timely report on May 7, 2004. The notice was sent by first class mail to the candidate and treasurer at the above-referenced address.

4. The secretary received the electronic filing of the report on May 7, 2004, which is one business day after the date on which the report was due.
5. The committee reported no contributions and total expenditures of \$11,191.18 during the accounting period for the report.
6. On May 11, 2004, the secretary received a letter from Ms. Close dated May 9, 2004. The letter explains that the software being used to produce the electronic report was not properly functioning, and was not fixed until May 7, 2004, whereby the report was immediately filed.
7. On June 10, 2004, the secretary sent the committee a Notice of Proposed Civil Penalty. The notice was sent by both certified and first class mail to the candidate and was sent by first class mail to the treasurer at the above-referenced address. The notice proposed a civil penalty of \$27.98 and allowed the committee 20 days to request a hearing. The notice sent by certified mail was returned unclaimed and the post office indicated it gave first notice on June 12, 2004.
8. The committee did not request a public hearing or submit notarized testimony in lieu of a public hearing. Even if the letter sent by Ms. Close on May 9, 2004, had been notarized, it would not have changed the outcome of the case.
9. The secretary has record of no previous late filings during the two-year period beginning September 15, 2003.

ULTIMATE FINDINGS OF FACT

Betsy L. Close, Candidate, and Christopher Close, Treasurer, failed to file a timely second pre-election contribution and expenditure report for the May 18, 2004, Primary Election.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Candidate Betsy L. Close's and Treasurer Christopher Close's failure to file a timely second pre-election contribution and expenditure report for the May 18, 2004, Primary Election violated ORS 260.058 and ORS 260.159.

By statute, a maximum \$10,000 civil penalty may be imposed for this violation. The *2004 Campaign Finance Manual*, which contains a penalty calculation matrix on pages 101 and 102, is designated in OAR 165-012-0005 as the procedure manual for Oregon campaign finance regulations.

Under the penalty matrix, the maximum statutory penalty of \$10,000 is reduced to one-quarter of 1% of the total contributions or total expenditures—whichever is greater—for each business day the report was late as this is the first late violation by the candidate and a paper copy of the report was provided by the deadline.

The calculated penalty for the late report is \$27.98 ($\$11,191.18 \times 1\% \times 1 \text{ day} \times 25\%$). Because the appropriate penalty is under \$50, no penalty will be assessed.

ORDER

It is ordered that no penalty be assessed.

RIGHT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW

You have the right to appeal this Order to the Oregon Court of Appeals pursuant to ORS 183.482. To appeal you must file a petition for judicial review with the Court of Appeals within 60 days from the day this Order was served to you. Because this Order was mailed to you, the date of service is the day it was *mailed*, not the day you received it. If you do not file a petition for judicial review within the 60-day time period, you will lose your right to appeal.

Jennifer Hertel, Compliance Specialist

DATE of Service: _____

c: Christopher Close, Treasurer
5220 NW Winn Dr
Albany, OR 97321